

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028646

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. REF MOSCOW 1723 AND THE COSTAKIS CASE, WE BELIEVE WE CAN RESOLVE THE SECURITY QUESTION BUT WE CANNOT GIVE ANY GUARANTEE AT THIS POINT. IF HE IS IN A HURRY TO GET OUT IT MIGHT BETTER FOR HIM TO GET AN EXIT VISA FOR GREECE OR CANADA. HOWEVER, THE DANGER IN HIS APPLYING IN A THIRD COUNTRY FOR SUBSEQUENT IMMIGRATION TO THE US IS THAT OUR CONSULAR OFFICERS IN THIRD COUNTRIES MAY NOT SEE THE DEROGATORY ALLEGATIONS IN THE SAME LIGHT THAT WE DO.

2. HAVE YOU HAD ANY REPORTS THAT TEN JEWISH MEMBERS OF THE MOSCOW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA WERE RECENTLY FIRED? WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL INQUIRIES AND SAID WE HAD NO INFO BUT WOULD TRY TO CHECK THIS OUT.

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3. IN HOPES OF STRAIGHTENING OUT PERSONNEL ON WHOM WE ARE LOOKING TO REPLACE IN 1978, COULD YOU PLEASE CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING LIST OF THOSE WE HAVE DUE FOR TRANSFER THAT YEAR: COMBS, PRESEL, MCNAMARA, MILES, STARBIRD, MAY, GROSS, NAPPER, HULINGS, GUST, GOSNELL, RUECKERT, CLYATT, HAYS, PORTER, WHITE. I REALIZE THIS WILL TAKE SOME

CHECKING ABOUT WHO WANTS TO EXTEND AND WHO DOESN'T, SO

PLEASE SEND IN WHAT YOU DO KNOW NOW AND SEND SUPPLEMENTS WHEN YOU GET THE INFORMATION. THE ASSIGNMENT WHEELS ARE CHURNING. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE ANY VIEWS ABOUT WHICH OF THESE POSITIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO FILL FROM WITHIN PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

4. PLEASE SEND US A COPY OF SHULMAN ARTICLE IN ZA RUBEZHOM NO. 2, 1977.

5. FROM MUKACHEVO ASSOCIATION HERE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT GROUP HAS POSITIVE FEELING ABOUT ITS VISIT. AFTER SPEAKING WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS, THEY REPORTEDLY WERE TOLD THAT CEMETERY WOULD NOT BE DESTROYED UNTIL FINAL DECISION WAS MADE AS TO ITS DISPOSITON. IT WAS NOT MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW THIS DECISION WOULD BE COMMUNICATED. ASSO-CIATION HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN TRYING TO GET SUPPORT FROM PROMINENT SENATORS AND WHITE HOUSE. AS A RESULT, SENATORS KENNEDY AND HUMPHREY HAVE SENT FOLLOW-UP LETTERS TO TOLYA AND NSC HAS TELEPHONED SOVEMBASSY TO EXPRESS WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT FOR MUKACHEVO ASSOCIATION'S AIMS. WE ASSUME YOU WILL REPORT BY REGULAR CABLE THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT BASED ON YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GROUP ON THEIR WAY BACK.

6. REF. MOSCOW 01832 AND THE OVSEP SOIBATIAN CASE, THE PROBLEM WITH INS PETITION APPROVAL IS THAT INS MACHINERY IS DELUGED WITH THE APPLICATION OF THE PREFERENCE PETITION
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SYSTEM TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE UNDER THE RECENT LEGISLA-TION. WE WILL TRY TO EXPEDITE THE SOIBATIAN CASE, BUT WE NEED THE MOTHER'S ADDRESS IN LOS ANGELES. PLS. PROVIDE IF POSSIBLE.

7. FURTHER TO TRACY TELECON. DECISION RE HERB WAS VERY BADLY RECEIVED BY HIM AND HE IS THREATENING TO PULL OUT ENTIRELY FROM PROGRAMS HE IS WORKING ON HERE IF HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VISIT, WHICH WAS HIS IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE. CAN YOU GIVE ME YOUR FURTHER FEELINGS, AND POSSIBLY THE AMBASSADOR'S, ABOUT THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN HAVING HIM THERE. I AM INCLINED TO REJECT THE KIND OF ULTIMATUM HE IS GIVING US, BUT MED FEELS UP AGAINST IT BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED AND HIS SHOES WOULD BE HARD TO FILL. MIGHT ADD THAT ONE ARGUMENT I USED HERE, IN ADDITION TO EFFECT ON STAFF, IS EFFECT ON SOVIETS WHOM WE ARE TRYING TO CONVINCE THAT THIS EXERCISE IS NOT RELATED TO HERB'S PRESENCE IN MOSCOW A YEAR AGO.
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